

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02759 082331Z

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CU-05 EB-11 AID-20

COME-00 SAJ-01 SAB-01 SAL-01 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 FRB-03 DRC-01 /223 W

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R 082211Z AUG 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5030

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

UNCLAS USUN 2759

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UN SN

SUBJ: PRESS BRIEFING BY SINGAPORE PERM REP, 8 AUG 1974

1. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF A PRESS BRIEFING GIVEN
BY NEW SINGAPORE PERM REP KOH TO THE UN CORRESPONDENT'S
ASSOCIATION CLUB ON 8 AUG 1974.

2. "AMB KOH REPORTED NEW "PSYCHOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH"
NOTING THAT THE FIVE ASIAN COUNTRIES IN HIS AREA (ASEAN)
HAVE DEVELOPED MUCH MORE INSIGHT AND UNDERSTANDING OF EACH
OTHER IN RECENT YEARS. FROM THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH
AMB KOH BELIEVES AN ECONOMIC BREAKTHROUGH WILL COME. THE
WITHDRAWL OF AMERICANS FROM VIETNAM AS WELL AS DECISION
OF ASIAN LEADERS TO STICK TOGETHER IN CHANGING POLITICAL
TIMES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS NEW OUTLOOK. HE COMPARES
THE REGIONAL GROUPING TO THAT OF SCANDINAVIA - HE SEES
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02759 082331Z

THE SAME KIND OF ULTIMATE DEVELOPMENT. KOH SAID THAT ECAFE
HAD BEEN MILDLY HELPFUL IN THE AREA BY DRAFTING A PLAN OF

ACTION FOR BETTER REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, BUT
DID'T CREDIT THE UN ORGANIZATION WITH MUCH ELSE.

3. "ASKED WHAT HE CONSIDERED THE MOST IMPORTANT BUSINESS
BEFORE THE GA THIS FALL, THE AMB SAID MOMENTUM CREATED BY
SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION LAST SPRING WOULD LEAD
TO CONTINUED ASSEMBLY PREOCCUPATION WITH BROAD CLUSTER OF
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. UN, HE BELIVES, OUGHT TO GIVE PRIORITY
ATTENTION TO AFFECT OF CLIMACTIC CHANGE ON FOOD PRODUCTION;
TO POPULATION PROBLEMS; ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT;
ENERGY AND DEPLETING NATURAL RESOURCES; TRADE AND AID;
EQUITABLE SHARING OF UNDERSEA RESOURCES. HE APPLAUDS
FACT THAT MANY OF THESE ISSUES ARE BEING TAKEN UP IN SPECIAL
CONFERENCES IN CARACAS, ROME AND BUCHAREST, BUT WOULD LIKE
TO SEE ASSEMBLY DISCUSS THEM AS WELL IN INTERRELATED
MANNER. AMB KOH ALSO DISCUSSED RIGHTS OF PASSAGE IN
THE MALACCA STRAITS, NOTING THAT OUT OF THE CARACAS
CONFERENCE SHOULD COME A MORE OBJECTIVE DEFINITION OF
"INNOCENT PASSAGE," AND "TRANSIT RIGHTS".
BENNETT

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